

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00341 011149Z

43

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 USIA-12 /023 W

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R 011130Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 489

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CE

SUBJ: PRELIMINARY FY-74 COUNTRY ALLOCATION - CU PROGRAM

REF: CU/NEA OM OF JAN 9

1. WE ARE SURPRISED AND CONCERNED TO LEARN (IN SEVENTH MONTH OF FISCAL YEAR AND IN ABSENCE ANY PRIOR INDICATION OF CHANGE IN COUNTRY PRIORITY) THAT SRI LANKA EXCHANGE PROGRAM IS TO BE REDUCED RATHER THAN INCREASED. IT IS EMBASSYS UNDERSTANDING THAT, AS RESULT PARA REVIEW IN 1972, DEPT HAD AN AGREED POLICY TO EXPAND CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH SRI LANKA. SINCE THEN WE HAVE MANAGED ONLY TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO DURING FY-1973 AND ARE NOW FACED WITH DRASTIC CUTBACK IN FY-1974 PROGRAM.

2. EXPLANATION (PARA 2 OF REF) SEEMS TO BE THAT SRI LANKA ALLOCATION HAS BEEN CUT TO COVER COST OF DOLLAR DEVALUATION AND POSTPONED FY-73 PROGRAMS AT OTHER POSTS.

3. WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT SEVERE REDUCTION IN CEYLONSE STUDENT PROGRAM (FOUR OF NINE FULL AND PARTIAL GRANTS) AND FACT THAT GENERAL PROGRAM CUT LEAVES US WITH INSUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS GREATLY IMPROVED SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR IV GRANTS RECENTLY NEGOTIATED WITH GSL.

4. PLEASE ADVISE WHAT POSSIBILITIES EXIST FOR IMPROVING

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THIS SITUATION THROUGH SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS OR FALL-

OUT, AND WHAT PRIORITY DEPT NOW ASSIGNS TO A)
RESTORING DECREASE IN SRI LANKA PROGRAM AND B) INCREASING
PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE PARA REVIEW.
VAN HOLLEN

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